

# Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

Dannel P. Malloy, Governor  
Steven K. Revczky, Commissioner  
Steve Jensen, Editor



Connecticut Department of Agriculture

March 1, 2016



**Bob Miller and his son Josh move firewood into their sugarhouse Monday as they prepare to boil maple sap into syrup.**

## **MAPLE SEASON STARTED EARLY, STILL GOING STRONG**

*By Steve Jensen, Office of Commissioner Steven K. Revczky*

The rhythmic chug of a vacuum pump and the sound of maple sap splashing into a metal storage tank signaled how Bob and Josh Miller would spend Monday afternoon at their Tri-Mountain Sugarhouse in Durham.

"Hear that?" Bob Miller asked as the morning sun and the small pump began to coax sap out of their 225-tree sugarbush and into the thick plastic lines that deliver it to the tank just outside the sugarhouse. "Once it's warm enough and the sun hits those trees the sap starts running."

"We'll be boiling today," confirmed Josh, Bob's son and the impetus for creating the 2-year-old maple business they run at their longtime Christmas tree farm on Tri-Mountain Road.

Like many maple producers around the state, the relatively warm winter allowed the Millers to tap their trees in late January, weeks before the traditional start of the season.

Since then, several stretches of warm days in the 40s and cool nights in the 20s required to draw sap from the trees' roots have balanced out other periods of too-warm, nonproductive weather.

"Total opposite of last season," said Bob, recalling how the extended cold allowed for only a few sap-running weeks starting in March.

Mark Harran, President of the Maple Syrup Producers Association of Connecticut, agreed.

"We've had good seasons the last two years but they've been very short," he said by phone from his Litchfield farm, where on Monday he made 40 gallons of syrup after boiling about 1,600 gallons of sap. "This year has been very good so far but I'm worried about the long-term forecast that says we're going to be in the 50s during the day and 30s at night by mid-March. If that comes true the season will be over. My advice would be to as the farmers say 'make hay while the sun shines' which to us means make as much maple as you can while we still can."

With the help of a Farm Transition Grant from the Dept. of Agriculture that required him to put up half of the \$25,000

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# LANCASTER, PA., LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Avg. Dressing

SLAUGHTER COWS:	LOW	HIGH
breakers 75-80% lean	75.00	80.00
boners 80-85% lean	75.00	79.50
lean 88-90% lean	69.00	75.00
SLAUGHTER STEERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	133.00	135.50
Choice 2-3	129.90	132.50
Sel 1-2	125.00	128.50
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEIN STEERS		
HiCh/Prm 2-3	124.00	125.00
Ch 2-3	115.00	119.00
Sel 1-2	107.00	114.00
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 2-3	126.50	128.50
Ch 2-3	121.00	126.00
Sel 1-2	115.00	120.00
CALVES Graded bull		
No 1 128-128 lbs	185.00	185.00
No 1 98-112 lbs	207.00	218.00
No 1 90-96 lbs	220.00	230.00
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled & Shorn		
Markets: Choice and Prime 2-3		
50-60 lbs	280.00	280.00
70-80 lbs	245.00	255.00
80-90 lbs	227.00	238.00
90-110 lbs	210.00	242.00
110-130 lbs	180.00	215.00
130-150 lbs	160.00	185.00
150-200 lbs	140.00	165.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3		
80-120 lbs	105.00	131.00
120-160 lbs	74.00	102.00
160-200 lbs	70.00	102.00
200-300 lbs	60.00	85.00
BUCKS		
120-160 lbs	80.00	118.00
160-200 lbs	60.00	100.00
200-300 lbs	60.00	100.00
SLAUGHTER KIDS: Select 1, by head, est.		
40-50 lbs	145.00	150.00
50-60 lbs	165.00	200.00
60-80 lbs	200.00	225.00
80-100 lbs	220.00	245.00
100-120 lbs	230.00	280.00
SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES: Sel 1, by head, est.		
80-130 lbs	200.00	245.00
130-180 lbs	240.00	277.00
SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Select 1		
100-150 lbs	260.00	275.00
150-250 lbs	300.00	390.00

# NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION

52-56	200-300 lbs	54.00	64.00
	300-350 lbs	56.00	63.00
48-52	200-300 lbs	42.00	50.00
	300-350 lbs	49.00	54.00
	350-400 lbs	35.50	37.00
Sows, US 1-3			
	300-500 lbs	40.00	50.00
	500-800 lbs	40.00	50.00
Boars	400-700 lbs	16.00	19.00

# EASTERN REGION - MISC. POULTRY

Ducklings, 4-5 lbs, per pound:

Long Island, fresh	2.36	2.42
Long Island, frozen	2.31	2.35
Squab, froz, per doz, 11 oz	99.63	117.60
Squab, froz, per doz, 15 oz	117.45	142.65

# WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES

Boston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices

# NEW ENGLAND GROWN

	LOW	HIGH
APPLES, EMPIRE, 120/140, #1, BU	15.00	16.00
APPLE, GALA, XFCY, 100	32.00	32.00
APPLE, GALA, XFCY, 125	20.00	20.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, XFCY, 100	55.00	55.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, XFCY, 72/80	70.00	70.00
APPLES, MACS, FNCY, 80, 88	17.00	17.00
APPLES, MACS, FNCY, 120, 140	15.00	17.00
APPLES, MAC, #1, CELLPK, 140	15.00	16.00
APPLE, MACS, FCY, 12-3LB, 2-1/2"	16.00	16.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 10 LBS	5.00	6.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 12-12 OZ	12.00	15.00
BEET, CHIOGGA, LOOSE, 25LBS	12.00	12.00
BEETS, GOLD, LOOSE, 25 LBS	14.00	14.00
PARSNIPS, MED, 20 LBS	19.00	23.00
POTATO, RNDWT, #1, SZA, 10LB	2.25	2.30
POTATO, RNDWT, #1, CHF, 50LB	9.00	9.00
POTATO, YLLW, #1, CHEF, 50LB	12.00	14.00
SQUASH, BUTTNT, 1-1/9	14.00	14.00
TOMS, GHSE, CHERRY, 8-10 OZ	23.00	24.00
TOMS, GHS, CHRY, ONVINE, 5LB	16.00	16.00
TOMS, GHSE, 11 LB FLATS	28.00	28.00
TOMATO, GHSE, LOOSE, 25LB	24.00	26.00
TOMATO, HEIRLM, GHSE, 10LBS	24.00	28.00
TURNIP, PRPLTP, ORG, 25LBS	13.00	14.00

# SHIPPED IN

APPL, BRAEBRN, WA, XFCY, 100	33.00	33.00
APPLE, FUJI, ORG, XFCY, WA, 80	74.00	74.00
APPLE, GALA, WAXFCY, 80	44.00	46.00
APPL, GLD DEL, ORG, XF, WA, 80	44.00	46.00
APPL, GLD DEL, PA, XFCY, 100	27.00	27.00
APPLE, JONAGOLD, NY, XFC, 56	20.00	20.00
APPLE, MAC, XFCY, NY, 100	26.00	26.00
APPLE, RED DEL, NY, XFCY, 88	20.00	20.00
APPLE, MUTSU, NY, XFCY, 65	20.00	20.00
APPL, PINKLDY, ORG, WA, XF, 80	77.00	77.00
APPLE, ROME, NY, XFCY, 80	26.00	26.00
BLUEBERRIES, ORG, 12-6OZ	28.00	28.00
BOKCHOY, BABY, FL, 1.5 BU	32.00	35.00
CARROTS, ORG, CA, 30-1LB	34.50	34.50
CORN, BICOLOR, FL, 4-41/2 DZ	38.00	42.00
CUKE, LNG, GHSE, FLMWRP, 12	12.00	15.00
DANDELION, TX, 12 BNCH	16.00	18.00
EGGPLANT, WRAPPED, FL, 1-1/9	18.00	20.00
ENDIVE, GHSE, BELGIUM, 5KG	15.00	17.00
ESCAROLE, FL, 1-1/9, 24	26.00	30.00
HORSE RADISH, MO, 5LBS	13.00	14.00
KALE, MIXD COLR, CA, 24	21.00	24.00
LETT, BSTN, GHS, CAN, 12-4OZ	16.00	17.00
LETT, OAKLF, CA, 2.2 LBS	11.00	13.00
MESCLIN MIX, ORG, CA, 3LBS	8.00	8.00
MUSHRM, WHT, ORG, PA, 12-8OZ	17.00	17.00
MUSHRM, SHITAKE, PA, 3LBS	11.00	15.00
MUSHRM, OYSTER, PA, 5LBS	18.00	20.00
MUSHRM, ENOKI, PA, 12-3.5OZ	18.00	19.00
OREGANO, FL, 1 LB, 12 PER	8.00	9.00
PEPPR, RED, ORG, GHS, ISR, 5LB	30.00	30.00
PEPPR, CHRYHT, GHS, BEL, 3KG	25.00	30.00
RADISHES, FL, 14-1LB	21.00	25.00
RASPBRY, RED, ORG, CA, 12-6OZ	50.00	54.00
RUTABAGAS, CANADA, 50 LBS	14.00	18.00
SPINACH, BABY, ORG, CA, 4LBS	10.00	12.00
TOMS, CHRRY, FL, 12-1PT	31.00	32.00
TOMS, GRAPE, FL, 20 LBS	31.00	35.00
WNTRCRSS, GHS, PA, 2.2 LB	26.00	26.00
WATERCRESS, FL, 24	18.00	20.00

# MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT, February 22, 2016

Bob Calves:	LOW	HIGH
45-60 lbs.	50.00	55.00
61-75 lbs.	120.00	127.50
76-90 lbs.	197.50	200.00
91-105 lbs.	205.00	210.00
106 lbs. & up	215.00	225.00
Farm Calves	230.00	250.00
Starter Calves	45.00	56.00
Veal Calves	1@	120.00
Open Heifers	110.00	135.00
Beef Heifers	95.00	109.00
Feeder Steers	137.50	150.00
Beef Steers	110.00	111.00
Stock Bulls	122.50	140.00
Beef Bulls	1@	106.00
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Boars	n/a	n/a
Sows	n/a	n/a
Butcher Hogs	n/a	n/a
Feeder Pigs	n/a	n/a
Sheep	100.00	210.00
Lambs	105.00	250.00
Goats each	120.00	315.00
Kid Goats	120.00	140.00
Canners	up to	79.50
Cutters	80.00	83.00
Utility Grade Cows	84.00	86.00
Rabbits each	10.00	20.00
Chickens each	6.00	21.00
Ducks each	7.00	20.00

# NORTHEAST EGGS/USDA

Per doz. Grade A and Grade A white in cartons to retailers (volume buyers)

XTRA LARGE	.97	1.18
LARGE	.91	1.05
MEDIUM	.75	.88

# NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS

Per doz. Grade A brown in carton delivered store door. (Range)

XTRA LARGE	1.58	1.78
LARGE	1.50	1.70
MEDIUM	1.00	1.20
SMALL	.76	.92

# NORTHEAST ORNAMENTALS

ANEMONE, NY, 10/BNCH	20.00	25.00
CALLA, NE, 5/BNCH	20.00	25.00
DAFFODILS, NJ, 10/BNCH	7.50	7.50
GERBERA, EACH	.45	.85
LILIES, ASIATIC, ME, 10	12.50	12.50
LILY, SORBONNE, ME, 10	20.00	20.00
TULIPS, NJ, 10	12.00	12.00

# WHOLESALE ORGANIC CHICKEN & EGGS

per lb.

WHOLE FRYER	1.70	3.32
BNLS BREAST	5.69	10.58
B/IN BREAST	3.69	6.16
WHOLE LEG	1.88	4.76
THIGHS	1.95	3.92
BROWN EGGS, XL	2.61	3.61
BROWN EGGS, L	2.30	3.50



**FOR SALE**

1-R. Blumenthal & Donahue is now Connecticut's first independent NATIONWIDE Agri-Business Insurance Agency. Christmas tree growers, beekeepers, sheep breeders, organic farmers and all others, call us for all your insurance needs. 800-554-8049 or [www.bludon.com](http://www.bludon.com)

2-R. Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800-554-8049 or [www.bludon.com](http://www.bludon.com)

3-R. Gallagher electric fencing for farms, horses, deer control, gardens, & beehives. Sonpal's Power Fence 860-491-2290.

4-R. Packaging for egg sales. New egg cartons, flats, egg cases, 30 doz and 15 doz. Polinsky Farm 860-376-2227.

5-R. Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance Program, endorsed by the CT Farm Bureau, save up to 23% on your farm insurance and get better protection. References available from satisfied farmers. Call Marci today at 203-444-6553.

9-R. CT Boot and Shoe offers top quality American Made work boots and shoes. Redwing, Thorogood, and Carolina brands. Free shipping in Connecticut. CT Boot, 33 River Street, Thomaston. Mention this ad to save \$20.00. 860-283-2385.

12-R. Six hoop houses – 28 x 96. Garage doors also available. Call 203-484-9708.

18. Bigham Bros. Sub-Soiler. 9 feet wide, 3 row tool bar, 6 shanks. Excellent condition. \$2,800.00. Call Andy 860-916-3171.

19-R. Irrigation Pump on trailer - Yanmar Diesel - liquid cooled-3 cyl-21.5hp/Rainbow SBB 4x3x9.5 pump/primer with 4" SCAN-Kleen filter, 4 foot valve and 170 feet of 4" HPDE suction pipe. Excellent condition - only 270 hours. Reasonable offers considered. Call Mark 860-977-6948.

20. For Sale: A.I. Tank MVE Cyro Biologic MACH WM33, capacity 600 straws, 180 day charge; excellent condition. \$700.00. Moosup 1-860-564-5908.

21-R. 72 x 30 x 12 (high) foot hoop house for sale. Lots of extra parts. 203-387-3055.

22-R. Hydraulic tilt deck trailer, 30 foot, winch, goose-neck, 10 ton. \$2,500.00. Army 6X6 diesel LWB, 3,000 miles. \$2,700.00. Army trailers. I-Beams: 14" and 16", 50 foot long. Call Richard, 203-598-0807.

25-R. McCormick #10 manure spreader. \$900.00 or B.O. 2-6 foot mid mount sickle bar mowers for 8-N Ford. \$800.00 or B.O. 9 foot all steel flatbed body with electric lift, fits 350 Ford cab and chassis. \$1,400.00 or B.O. Hannay 50 gallon sprayer on wheels, needs battery. \$600.00. Pinco 25 kW generator on wheels. \$1,200.00 or B.O. 10 inch Craftsman table saw. \$125.00 or B.O. 4 rectangular fiberglass tanks, 80 to 200 gallon. \$80.00 to \$200.00. And, 4 section brooder on wheels. \$400.00 or B.O. Call Bruce @ 860-684-1621.

26. Log size black walnut trees. U-cut. Woodstock. \$100.00 each. 860-942-1818.

**WANTED**

17-R. Standing timber wanted. Hardwood/Softwood. Top prices paid. Licensed and insured. 10 acre minimum. 860-798-4039.

23-R. Emu wanted: We have a lone female who lost her boyfriend last fall. She needs a companion. People-friendly preferred. Please contact [info@flamigfarm.com](mailto:info@flamigfarm.com) or 860-658-5070.

27. 3 or 4 gallon back pack mist blower. 860-942-1818.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

6-R. Farm/Land specializing in land, farms, and all types of Real Estate. Established Broker with a lifetime of agricultural experience and 40 years of finance. Representing both Buyers and Sellers. Call Clint Charter of Wallace-Tetreault Realty (860) 644-5667.

24-R. The Connecticut Military Department has indoor stalls for lease at the Governor's Horse Guard facilities in Avon and Newtown. Monthly rate is \$350.00. For further information, please visit our website at [www.ct.gov/mil/stall-lease](http://www.ct.gov/mil/stall-lease) or call 860-524-4968. Proceeds benefit Connecticut Governor's Horse Guards.

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award, Josh Miller bought a pre-fabricated hemlock post-and-beam sugarhouse and a wood-fired sap boiler/evaporator that are the heart of his operation.

"Without that grant, I couldn't have come up with the money myself to buy this," he said as he readied equipment for Monday's anticipated boil of about 300 gallons of sap.

Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky said that although Connecticut's annual production is still relatively modest, maple syrup has become one of the state's iconic crops.

"I believe there is ample opportunity for the maple industry to grow significantly in our state," Reviczky said. "Our agency is eager to work with producers to make that happen through grants and other technical assistance."

The origins of the Miller farm date to 1929, when Bob's grandfather, Ben, bought the farm after emigrating from Lithuania and working in New York City.

"He decided he wanted to be a farmer," said Bob Miller, who helps run his family's fencing business.

Ben raised dairy cows, chickens and vegetables commercially. A few years after he passed on in 1976, Bob and his father Harold and brother Seth decided to convert the property into a Christmas tree farm.

The idea to start producing maple syrup came when Josh was introduced to sugaring by some classmates at Paul Smith's College in upstate New York, where he graduated in 2013 with a degree in Ecological Forest Management.

He now works as an industrial forester for a local sawmill that makes railroad ties, and describes his maple business as a more of a serious hobby.

"We had always just done Christmas trees here and we wanted to diversify from that," Josh said. "But I don't ever expect to make a lot of money from it."

His sugarbush mainly consists of trees 8 to 12 inches in diameter that began sprouting up in a former pasture about 60 years ago. More than 4,000 feet of blue plastic line is strung throughout the roughly 4-acre sugarbush, which is about equally split between sugar maples and red maples.

Inspecting the lines and a pressure gauge Monday, Josh said the ideal flow is a slow, steady parade of separate sap "bubbles" going through the lines.

"If you see the bubbles racing through the lines it means I have a leak in a line somewhere," he said.

The sugarbush is only slightly above the elevation of the sugarhouse, making the vacuum pump crucial to assisting gravity in getting sap to its 787-gallon storage tank.

Josh expects to produce about 50 to 60 gallons of syrup this year, most of which will be sold at warm-season farmers' markets in Madison and Higganum.

"If I upgraded my vacuum pump I could probably double that," he said. "The one I have now is about as low-tech as it gets."

The Millers are among 30 maple producers listed in a brochure produced by the Dept. of Agriculture in conjunction with the maple growers' association and available at [CTGrown.gov](http://CTGrown.gov) and [ctmaple.org](http://ctmaple.org).

The brochure has proven to be effective at drawing customers, Josh said, but has also produced calls from the uninitiated wondering why they aren't open every weekend.

"Some people think we can just make the sap go but it's not like that," he said. "If I don't have sap I'm not open."





**The CT Dept. of Agriculture is promoting maple syrup during the month of March on several state radio stations, as well as Pandora radio and the agency Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/ConnecticutGrown](http://www.facebook.com/ConnecticutGrown) and at [CTGrown.gov/maplesyrup](http://CTGrown.gov/maplesyrup).**

**The ads feature the message: "What do pancakes, ice cream, vegetables, coffee and oatmeal have in common? They all taste better with Connecticut Grown maple syrup. Find a sugarhouse near you at [CTGrown.gov/maple\\_syrup](http://CTGrown.gov/maple_syrup) and tap into the sweetness."**

**Also visit our Pinterest page, [pinterest.com/GrowCTAg](http://pinterest.com/GrowCTAg), for sugar-ing facts, maple syrup recipes and sugarhouses open to the public.**

**Clockwise from above left: the sap evaporator and vacuum pump in the sugarhouse at Miller's Tri-Mountain Sugarhouse in Durham; the 787-gallon sap storage tank outside the sugarhouse with blue plastic line carrying sap from the sugarbush at far rear of photograph; Josh Miller in the sugarbush checking a pressure gauge on the vacuum system.**

**Advertising Rates:** Fifteen or fewer words: \$3.75 per insertion. More than 15 words: 25 cents per word per insertion. Ads must be related to agriculture in Connecticut and are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Payment must be received by noon on Friday before publication the following Wednesday. Make check or money order payable to the Connecticut Dept. of Agriculture, and mail copy and remittance to the department at 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106. For more information contact [Jane.Slupecki@ct.gov](mailto:Jane.Slupecki@ct.gov) or call 860-713-2588.

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